

My Creed Is The Staff On Which I Lean—My Church But a Garb For My Creed

An "Undernourished" Church Is As A Ragged Raiment: Clothing The Body Poorly And Serving But In Part Its Purpose

By MRS. EDITH M. WAGAR

Whenever and wherever we hear the farm problem discussed, the last few years, there are a few high points that are emphasized; there's the economic side first, always, and perhaps it should be first, for most of the farmers feel that they could remedy many of their ills if they received pay for their labor on the same basis as other people. Then they mention the advantages for their families; they want conveniences, they want comforts and they want culture. They want educational advantages for their children that could compare creditably with the chances any city child might have and then they mention the rural church.

When we come to the question of the church, I wonder just who is responsible for church conditions in the country sections as they are today? Is it the people themselves or is it the church system?

I passed through a cross road hamlet the other day within the radius of five miles of several larger towns and in that little burg of perhaps one hundred souls there were three Protestant churches. And on almost every journey one takes in our state or any other state of this section one finds repetitions of the same situation.

Last summer while at our Farm Bureau training school at Cedar Lake, Indiana, we were told by Dr. Eastman, of Chicago University, that a large portion of these little churches now are kept open only by contributions from mission boards that seem to know no other way of serving the farmer than that old antiquated method of planting more of these little churches throughout the country. These means might have been logical when transportation was different and church privileges were not accessible, but the method long since has been out-grown and should have been abolished before it worked to the extreme that we find today.

The contributors to these mission funds are gradually demanding fewer churches with better support. And still with this seemingly over-churching country we find an under-churching condition. Only one-fifth of the rural people go to church at all; two-fifths of the churches are standing still; seven out of every ten have part time pastors; one-third of the rural ministers must work at other work while holding a charge in order to live at all; one-fourth of the churches have no Sunday School; \$4,000,000 every year are given by home missions to keep churches in existence; one-fifth of all rural churches receive and must have this mission aid.

Too Many Weak Churches

One striking statement that Dr. Eastman made was, that it was just a foolhardy to build or plant five or six of these little "undernourished" churches in a rural community of a thousand souls, as it is for a farmer to plant corn and wheat and oats in one field in the same year. None could thrive or do its best, or even perform any of the services for which it is intended to do.

Why are we so denominational? Are we just working for our particular creed or are we working for the glory of God? Are we striving to adjust our thinking and doing so that our living will be of the simple, honest, straight-forward life of a Christian in the true sense or are we simply scrambling for another notch in the yard stick of our own pet denomination?

And then when we think of some of the religious prejudices we come in contact with almost every day, we wonder if the loving spirit of Christ has touched those people. He could mingle with anyone. He was sympathetic with all. He did not demand everyone to think just as he did in minor things but rather he appreciated the counsel of others and all that he felt on which the universe should unite was the acknowledgment of the Creator of all and an obedience to His laws.

There are no two people alike so why should anyone expect us all to think alike; rather, why cannot we school ourselves to respect the other fellow's opinion so long as he is earnest and conscientious in his belief. I've heard people fairly rave over the adherents of some creed when they themselves did not profess allegiance to or support any creed whatsoever.

We Should Know Our Creed

We've heard of people willing to go to war against, or die to save the country from, other creeds and, when put to the test, they could not tell what they themselves believed in. And where is it bringing us to, what are we gaining by our radical views of those who differ with us? Are we making the world better; are we putting strength and stability in our country; are we exercising an influence over the next generation to make them law abiding, God fearing or, rather, God loving, upright men and women with a respect for religion as a thing to be lived rather than to be adopted? And then cannot we analyze the situation in our own community and see if we too are classed with the overchurched group with ministers under-paid;

IT HAPPENS WHEN THE FARMER MOVES OFF FROM THE FARM

It has been generally considered that the average farm home was a place where a family might be reared, a good living made, and sufficient profit accumulated to enable the operator to get ahead in the world. In a recent address, Secretary Jardine pointed out that many farmers are expected to do more than this. He said:

"What happens when a fairly well-to-do farmer moves to the city? He either sells his farm or places a tenant in charge. If the latter occurs, the farm must then support two families. The new man, as a general rule, has his fortune to make out of the soil. The prosperous farmer takes to the city with him his years of experience and education in business-like farming, his wealth which was produced on the land, and his desire to live a more comfortable life. The rural neighborhood, school, club, church, and local government lose a substantial supporter. Even if he retains ownership of the farm, his income from the land usually is spent in the city. Should he sell the farm outright, that wealth goes to build up the city and its business. By remaining on the farm, the fairly well-to-do man could do much to raise the standard of living in this community. In moving to the city, he enters an entirely new environment with a good chance of being a misfit in the new surroundings."

"Only a month ago I visited several farms in Kansas. For 30 years Mr. Taylor and his family have lived on a 160-acre piece of land in the central part of the state. Taylor himself has retired, but he continues to live on the farm; his sons are in charge of its actual operation. The farm home has a small, but good library. There are a fireplace, a radio and a piano. Shrubs and trees shade and beautify the home. The house, pump house and barn are equipped with electricity. There is running water in the house. Mr. Taylor has even laid out a nine-hole golf course on a hilly section of his land; that particular piece of land is grazed by sheep. All that Mr. Taylor and his family have was made from the land. That wealth has been invested right at home. His family is benefited. The entire community is benefited."

"Just across the road is another farm. Its soil is as rich and as productive as Mr. Taylor's farm. Ten years ago its owner felt that he had sufficient money to move to town. He placed a tenant in charge. Today the foundation on that farm home is rotting. There are few trees and no shrubs. The land produces bountifully, but the income seeps to the city. Ten years ago the farm offered better living conditions than it does today."

WHAT I WANT TO BE

Just at the time when M. W. Frye, of Brown City, Mich., thought he had his son, Russell, going strong with the farm work, up he comes from the field waving a slip of paper and crying, "Look, Dad, see what I wrote!" And here we have Russell's verse on what he claims he wants to be. Russell's father said the boy composed it on his way up from the field, but we bet the kid took time off while the old man wasn't looking and "put 'er together." How about it, Russell. Anyway, here you are, folks:

WHAT I WANT TO BE
I want to be a farmer
And with the farmers toil
Aworking with machinery
And get my hands all stiff.
I wouldn't be a merchant
I wouldn't be a clerk
I wouldn't be a teacher
And around the schoolroom lurk,
I wouldn't be a lawyer
For lawyers sometimes shriek;
But I want to be a farmer,
The man who does the work.

A parking space is a place where you leave the flivver to have the tires, magneto and battery removed.

JUST THINK

Every time the clock ticks, ten dollars worth of property goes up in smoke. Every day enough property value is destroyed by fire to feed and clothe a city of 50,000 people for ten days. Every week the fire loss is enough to build 100 miles of good macadam road. Every month the loss from fire is equivalent to a sum of money which would buy the grounds, erect the buildings, and provide an endowment to pay the running expenses of a large college. In a year, the money value of fire losses would pay salaries, buy books and supplies for all public education in the entire United States for more than half a year. If all the buildings destroyed by fire every year were placed on lots of 65 feet frontage, they would line both sides of a street extending from Chicago to New York. A person walking along this mythical street would pass in every thousand feet a ruin from which an injured person was taken. At every three-quarters of a mile in the walk he would encounter the charred remains of a human being who had been burned to death.—Indiana Fire Prevention Journal.

My Theory of Community Work

Rev. H. F. Roncy
Pastor of the Catholic Church at Dougherty, Iowa

I am a Catholic priest and I have my own flock, but I have never considered that I lived in a community just for my own people. I have until recently always labored in places that were predominantly Protestant, but I have never looked upon the bounds of my field of activity as limited by those who belong to my parish. They were all God's children to me and all members of the big human family. Again, I have never thought that a clergyman's sphere of interest in his people was limited to their spiritual welfare. Man has a body as well as a soul and the soul is not the only part of him that needs looking after. In war days when hired men were scarce in the country, I took the place of a hired man on the farm. I loaded hay, drove the binder, pitched to the threshing machine, whatever was the work to be done. I donned my overalls and straw hat, and went to work. I tramped through rain and mud on Liberty Loan drives, acted as a Four-Minute man, talked to crowds and in places where the priest had never been before. I registered for the draft and claimed no exemption.

With this philosophy in mind, I labored for over ten years in a community of Payette County, Iowa. When, after the war, I saw Legion boys neglected, I helped to stir up the Red Cross. We got a trained secretary on the job and the boys got compensation, some were sent to the hospital, and others received medical attention. When the office in St. Louis was slow I boarded the train and went down and prodded them and got some cases over. It was community work and that alone. When the poor of that town needed anything, I tried to see that they got it. Through Red Cross funds we supplied their wants. No one was ever afraid to come to me and lay his case before me. I never pleaded "too busy" to help their cause. The merchants in the town and the ragged children living in the shanties have all rung my doorbell and presented their troubles. As a father to all I have labored with them. I know I have the gratitude of the poor and their prayers for my work as my reward.

Two years ago we took up the case of the farmer, Born and raised on an Iowa farm, a one-time student at Ames, I saw the Farm Bureau was not appreciated among the farmers. A meeting was advertised and the assistant state secretary of

TOP O' MICHIGAN POTATO AND APPLE SHOW NOV. 2, 3, 4

Biggest Exposition Ever Held Is Being Laid Out This Year
EIGHT COUNTIES JOIN Northern Michigan Growers Out To Set A Mark For Superior Stock

Preparations are well under way for holding the fifth annual Top O' Michigan Potato and Apple Show at Gaylord on November 2, 3, and 4. This show established five years ago has grown rapidly. Last year there were over 350 entries. This year a superintendent has been appointed for each department. Mr. A. C. Lytle, secretary of the show, is very optimistic over the attitude of several of the large apple growers of northern Michigan. They have promised to make liberal entries. Increased premiums in apples should be added incentive for all apple growers to make entries this year.

WHEN YOU SHIP

Stocker and feeder cattle or sheep there are certain requirements that must be met to enable you to benefit by the new stocker and feeder rates allowed by the railroad companies on these two classes of livestock. The traffic department of the State Farm Bureau is in position to render the necessary service in arranging for these special class rates. Why not have this department assist you in getting these special rates this fall? We Audit Freight Bills Free. Small Fee For Collections.

Mich. Farm Bureau Traffic Dept.
LANSING, MICH.

Today is thine, fulfill its work

Apple Crop Smallest Since Season Of '21

Prospects that the apple crop this year will be the smallest since 1921, and, excepting that year, the smallest in twenty years, are reported in a special summary of the situation. Early fall frosts are endangering the crop in some districts, and from an expected total of 26,200,000 barrels on July 1, estimates of the commercial crop have been reduced to 24,200,000 barrels, says the bureau. Similar reductions have been made for the commercial crop in Canada, where less than 3,000,000 barrels are expected.

Practice may not make a lawyer perfect, but enough of it may make him rich.



Whites are the Limiting Factor in Egg Production

ONE hundred pounds ordinary grain ration produces 45% more yolks than whites. Hens need protein to produce whites. Michigan Egg Mash with Buttermilk supplies the protein ingredients for whites in the proper proportion to balance the yolks for maximum egg production. The public formula for Michigan Egg Mash with Buttermilk is your assurance of constant high quality feed and production records. Send for pamphlet of our Poultry Feeds containing valuable feeding suggestions. Distribution all over the State.

FOR SALE BY
Co-op Associations and Farm Bureau Distributors

Farm Program Should Include Tree Raising

Since timber will always be needed for operating the farm—for houses, barns, fences and firewood—the national farm program—should include growing timber for home use and for sale. Shortleaf pine has features which make it a desirable and profitable tree to grow as a crop. It grows rapidly, produces high quality wood, yields seed in abundance, and if the young trees are killed back it will sprout up vigorously from the ground to form another forest. The short leaf pine grows well on the uplands.



A bow long bent at last waxed weak.

SAFETY

SERVICE SATISFACTION

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTO INS. CO.
OF BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

Michigan State Farm Bureau
MICHIGAN AGENT
LANSING MICHIGAN

ECONOMY

Insure Your Car In A 4 SQUARE COMPANY

Here is an automobile insurance company that serves farmers only. It has farmer agents and adjusters everywhere, affording genuine protection to those who can qualify.

Year	Income	Assets
1922	29,222.10	27,444.87
1923	69,832.65	64,353.62
1924	115,709.28	136,833.54
1925	231,917.17	298,123.22
1926	552,127.93	570,212.31
May 31, 1927	1,350,880.42	1,059,431.53

From Range to Feedlot

68,000 LAMBS

Have been purchased for delivery through the co-ops for feeding this fall.

Supplying feeder lambs and cattle to Michigan livestock growers through the National Live Stock Producers Association was undertaken by the Michigan Live Stock Exchange a year ago with such resultant success and satisfaction to the growers that similar connections have been made this season.

Last year 23,000 of a total of 130,000 feeder lambs purchased through the National Livestock Producers Association were placed in Michigan. In addition to this there were 10,000 feeder cattle purchased direct from the range at a great saving to the feeders.

This season's shipments of lambs began September 1, from the Oregon ranges, and continued until September 15; Montana lambs, September 15 to October 10. Write J. H. O'Malley, Secretary, Michigan Livestock Exchange, Hudson, Mich., for particulars.

Representatives Now In The
Cattle Territory

Michigan Livestock Exchange

HUDSON MICHIGAN

Why Your Stock Should Go the Co-op Way

than that,—the co-ops are saving money on low operating costs and they pro-rate it back to your local association! Drovers and old-time commission men can't live on nothing. They figure a good living out of their shipping profits. You can realize that profit yourself, and why not? Your co-op organization carries your stuff clear to the packer's hands and you get all it brings. Our salesmen are the best in the business. Ship your stock to the—

The farmers' own co-op commission houses at Detroit and East Buffalo are getting farmers better returns. Your own experienced and conscientious salesmen sell your stock to the best advantage and you benefit. More

Michigan Livestock Exchange
Detroit, Mich.

or
Producers Co-Op Com. Ass'n
East Buffalo, N. Y.

Impatience gathers unripe fruit.

